

**Zoonotics Disease Rules Interagency Workgroup
February 23, 2009
Meeting Notes**

Workgroup Attendees

Diana Yu, Jerry Pospisil, Rachel Wood, Marcia Goldoft, Nichola Marsden-Haug, Dorothy MacEachern, Sharon Hopkins, Candice Joy, Nancy Napolilli, Elizabeth Dykstra, Ron Wohrle, Ted Dale, Ned Therien (moderator)

Guests

Dr. Robert Whitney

General Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Be consistent with use of terms '<i>poultry</i>' and '<i>young poultry</i>'.○ Regarding the prohibition of sale of items infected with anthrax, change '<i>infected</i>' to '<i>contaminated</i>' since we are dealing with non-living items.○ Regarding the prohibition of sale of items contaminated with anthrax, add language to include items '<i>suspected</i>' of being contaminated.○ Keep existing ban on pet turtles less than 4 inches. Removing reference to the CFR it was developed from would be cleaner than keeping reference.
Public Setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Handwashing stations are not always practical in farm settings. Unsure of any data about effectiveness of wipes vs. sanitizers. Can we allow use of sanitizers when handwashing sinks are impractical?○ Signs for the public should note that animals can carry germs even though they appear healthy.○ The rule should require prominent warning signs at the exit to warn people they are leaving a contaminated area and they should wash their hands or use hand sanitizers.○ The issue of animal shows was also brought up – do you need signs at a dog show where people don't come in direct contact with the animals? What about other shows where people are in direct contact with them? Do all of them fall into the Animal Venue Operator category?
Psittacosis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Should we more clearly define what "<i>prevent human exposure</i>" means? Are open-air bird cages in the middle of a pet store alright, or should they be in an area where people cannot breath the same air? What about quarantine - does just moving the birds back into the storage area qualify as quarantine? This could go into guidelines rather than written into rule.○ Some counties have had problems with stores using ineffective antibiotics to treat psittacosis. We should have something that says the local health officer determines what the appropriate antibiotic is.○ Review the document for use of '<i>psittacosis</i>' and '<i>avian chlamydiosis</i>'. One is the bird condition and one is the human condition. Make sure we use the appropriate one in each instance throughout the rule.

Rabies

- The authority of Veterinary Technicians being able to administer rabies vaccines instead of just a veterinarian was discussed. What would veterinarians think of Technicians administering the shots? More research was suggested. This rule should allow flexibility according to standards of professional practice.
- There was discussion about the approximate costs of rabies vaccinations obtained either in veterinarians' offices or rabies vaccination clinics. The vaccine itself is inexpensive.
- The group agreed with the rabies compendium recommendation regarding mandatory rabies vaccination for all dogs, cats & ferrets in the state. Long overdue, not cost prohibitive. How to do it? Do not tie to licensing as not all areas require a license, and requiring a license for all animals would be an added financial problem for owners.
- Throughout the document change '*food animal*' to '*livestock*.'
- '*Isolation*' is used in the rule when we should use '*quarantine*'. Replace all.
- It was determined that livestock vaccination need not be included in this rule because the risk of infecting a person is very, very low.
- There is a short list of animals that are not allowed as pets, but what about other animals like a mongoose or a wolf? Dangerous animal statutes cover some (wolf, leopard, jaguar, etc) but not all of them. The list comes from the compendia and we should be consistent with the national guidelines.
- What about horses in barns with bats? If a bat is found in a barn, do the horses need to be euthanized because they were in its living space? The group said no and to include in the definition of rabies exposure: "...when a bat is present in a '*residential*' living space."
- Should we add information about personal protective equipment? Not really our role to determine, no enforcement action if they don't use any. The compendium has information for this already, we don't need to duplicate.

Dr. Whitney's Perspective

- Washington is one of 8 contiguous states that do not have state requirements for vaccinating dogs and cats against rabies.
- Washington is an odd case with rabies regulations as the counties/cities have their own regulations. Only 14 of 39 counties have ordinances requiring rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats.
- Rabies is endemic in other parts of the world. About 300,000 puppies are imported into the US every year.
- Not requiring rabies vaccines for livestock at petting zoos should be alright because the risk of transmission of Rabies is extremely low.

Next steps

Workgroup members will:

- Send additional comments to Ron Wohrle by early week of March 2.
- Over the next several months, seek input from Washington State Veterinarians' Association and Local Health Officers' Forum regarding adding statewide requirement for owners of dogs, cats, and ferrets to have them vaccinated against rabies.

SBOH/DOH will:

- Incorporate rule text changes into the draft documents and send to members for additional comments.
- Investigate Veterinarian ideas on allowing Vet Techs to administer rabies vaccinations w/o direct veterinary supervision.